Croyland Primary School

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Important information for Parents and Carers

It has kindly been bought to my attention that there is a new app that has come out and is becoming increasingly popular around our local secondary schools. We have not had any mention of this within our school e-safety logs as of yet.

It is called AZAR. It is rated for users 17 or older however as we know with computer games, facebook and instagram; these age limits are often not respected.

To briefly summarise the apps purpose:

AZAR is a Random Video Chat is exactly what its name suggests: it is an **app** that lets you have random video conversations with other users from around the world. It accesses over 190 different countries and has over 300 million users.
The app allows you to access other people's webcams/cameras however by having it also allows them access to yours. IT IS NOT SAFE FOR CHILDREN.

The main safety concerns:

- The app shows the device location, making them easily identifiable to other users in the area.

- There is an option to choose the gender of the friends you meet, but if you leave the option open, most of the users are male and can be of any age.

- A simple swipe to the left reveals a new video chat, so children could see lots of random strangers in a matter of minutes.

- The video quality is good which is a huge concern if users are sharing inappropriate content on the app.

- The app allows individuals to share photos of any content extremely easily. The app allows individuals to report other users and misconduct but this does not remove the content instantly.

- Azar has a feature that translates texts and video calls; allowing children to read the content no matter what the language.

- The only age verification is entering a birth date, which can easily be lied about.

Like SnapChat and Instagram, Azar exposes users to strangers on the Internet and can leave their identity and location out in the open.

It is available on computers/laptops, apple devices and androids. Please listen out for any children talking about this app and report it straight on an E-Safety log so we can act promptly.

Technology and apps are constantly developing and the children are often very quick to access such things so if anyone hears of any new apps/games that could present a potential online safeguarding concern please can you share them with myself/Martin/Sue O'Sullivan or senior leaders as a matter of urgency so we can research them and send out any notifications.

"a happy school where we become experts in lots of things"